

EGR 574: Engineering Education Systems in Context – Fall 2016
Reflective Journal Assignment & Final Synthesis
Assignment Description

Final Synthesis Due via Blackboard: Monday, Nov. 14, 2016

Reflection is an integral part of being a researcher. It is something that can be done before taking an action, while in action, or after an action. You will have the opportunity as part of this course to reflect on and document your journey as an engineering education researcher. Your reflections will provide you with the chance to make connections to past experiences that have informed your current thinking about engineering education research, capture your current thoughts on the course topics, and clarify research ideas and interests that may stick with you long after this course ends. You will submit a final synthesis at the end of the semester that will use your journal entries as data for uncovering your development process.

Weekly Journal Assignments

Take time at the end of and after each class to write a journal entry in response to the following questions:

1. What are similarities and differences between the Pioneers' stories and my own experience?
2. What is my response to the Pioneers' advice for new researchers and/or reflection questions posed in the Pioneers' profiles and/or thought-provoking questions discussed in class?
3. How, if at all, have this week's course readings or discussions influenced my research interests?

We anticipate that each reflection will adequately respond to the posed questions, i.e., write as little or as much as you feel is necessary. You should expect to have at minimum of 20 journal entries by the end of the semester to use as part of your final synthesis.

Final Synthesis

You will submit at the end of the semester a synthesis document detailing your journey this semester as an engineering education researcher. The document should be formatted as follows and be between 2,500 to 5,000 words.

I. Introductory statement *summarizing* your journey as an engineering education researcher.

II. Discuss at least two "*themes*" you see in your reflections.

For each theme – summarize what and why things have changed; then illustrate with *dated excerpts* you are willing to share from your journal.

III. Concluding statement

Reflect on what it has been like to look back on how your thoughts have changed this semester. Have you had some insights or realizations? Are there things that have emerged specifically from this activity? Was this task difficult or painful? If so, why? If not, why not?